



City of Santa Barbara
Building & Safety Division

Community
Development
Department
630 Garden Street
805-564-5485

A Guide to Permitting a Single Family Graywater System

- Step 1** - Pick up Graywater Building and Permitting information
- Step 2** - Evaluate and research appropriate systems for your site
- Step 3** - Design your graywater system
- Step 4** - Submit application for Plan Check from the City
- Step 5** - Receive Plan Check approval and permit from City
- Step 6** - Begin building the system according to the approved plans
- Step 7** - Call City Building & Safety Division to set-up an inspection when trenches are open
- Step 8** - Call City Building & Safety Division to set-up final inspection

For complete instructions see below:

Step 1 - Pick-up the following Graywater Building and Permitting Information

- Master Application
- *Single-Family Residential Graywater System Design Sheet* (if applicable)
- "California Graywater Guide" Booklet

This information is available in the lobby of the Community Development/ Public Works Departments Building at 630 Garden Street.

Step 2 - Evaluate Your Site and Research Appropriate Systems

- Graywater is defined in the 2007 California Plumbing Code (CPC) as "...untreated wastewater which has not come into contact with toilet waste."
- Where can a graywater system be installed?
 - ✓ Single family residences
 - ✓ A graywater system can be constructed only on the same lot as the building it serves and must follow the criteria of CPC Chapter 16.
- What plumbing CAN connect to a Graywater System?
 - ✓ Bathtubs, showers, and bathroom wash basins, and clothes washers and laundry tubs only.
- What plumbing CAN NOT connect to a Graywater System?
 - ✓ Toilets and bidets
 - ✓ Kitchen sinks and dishwashers
- What do I need to provide in my permit application packet about soils?
 - ✓ Soil conditions for single-family graywater systems can be established following Simplified Soil Test procedures (see Attachment B: *Simplified Soil Test for Single-Family Graywater Systems*).
 - ✓ For new construction, a soil percolation test can be added to the required soils investigation report.

Step 3 – Design Your Graywater System

- Design your graywater system according to the 2007 California Plumbing Code, Chapter 16. Have your system designed to appropriately deal with the volume of water, soils, and slope of your site.
- See Attachment A: *Graywater Systems Checklist* for a list of all the details you'll need to show on your plan.
- For maximum efficiency, design your system to have the plants you want watered downhill from where the graywater is generated.

Step 4 & 5 – Plan Review and Permit

- What do I need to include in my Graywater Permit Application Packet?
 - ✓ Detailed Design Sheet and plot plan, either Option 1 or 2.
 - Option 1 - Use the City's *Single-Family Residential Graywater System Design Sheet (if applicable)* which provides detail drawings of a simple graywater system and space to sketch your plot plan.
 - Option 2 - Create your own design submission, including the details listed on Attachment A: *Graywater Systems Checklist*.
 - ✓ Master Application
 - ✓ Soils Information
 - For a Single-family Graywater System, follow Attachment B: *Simplified Soil Test for Single-Family Graywater Systems*
 - Additions or new construction need a Soil Test Certification.
- Submit plans and application packet to City's Building & Safety Division.
 - ✓ Submit 3 sets of plans to:
 - ✓ City of Santa Barbara Building & Safety Counter
 - ✓ 630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
 - ✓ Call 564-5485 for plan check/technical questions.
 - ✓ A \$50 permit fee will be assigned for a single-family residential graywater system. (Includes initial and final site inspection). For other types of graywater systems, additional fees may apply.
 - ✓ Following plan check approval, the inspection will be scheduled by the homeowner/contractor during the construction phase.

Step 6 – Build Your System

- Begin building your system according to the approved plans. An inspection is required during the building process as well as at completion of installation.
- Changes to the plan may require a plan revision from the City's Building & Safety Division.

Step 7 - City Installation Inspection

- First inspection by a City Building Inspector must be when trenching is open and pipes and fittings have been installed (this is called a "Rough Plumbing" inspection). Call the City's Building & Safety Division to schedule this inspection at 564-5492.

Step 8 – Final Inspection

- Call the City's Building & Safety Division, at 564-5492, for a Final Inspection when the system is completely installed and any trenches are filled in. These inspections will ensure the installation meets all code requirements and approvals.